

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, CFED (MAIKOVSKIS, BOLESLAVS)

SUBJECT: ALLEGED WAR CRIMINAL SHOT AND WOUNDED

REF: MOSCOW 16222

1. AMERICAN PRESS REPORTED THAT BOLESLAVS MAIKOVSKIS WAS SHOT AND WOUNDED AUG 4 AT HIS LONG ISLAND HOME. HIS WAR CRIMES DEPORTATION CASE WAS ONE INS ATTORNEYS DISCUSSED WITH SOVIET AUTHORITIES DURING RECENT VISIT TO USSR. FULL TEXT OF AUG 5 NEW YORK TIMES STORY FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN TEXT. A 73-YEAR-OLD RETIRED CARPENTER WHO HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF BEING A NAZI WAR CRIMINAL AND WHOM THE UNITED STATES IS ATTEMPTING TO DEPORT WAS SHOT AND WOUNDED AT HIS HOME HERE TODAY.

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THE VICTIM, BOLESLAVS MAIKOVSKIS, WHO WAS TRIED, CONVICTED AND SENTENCED TO DEATH IN ABSENTIA FOR WAR CRIMES IN LATVIA BY A SOVIET COURT IN 1965, BARRICADED HIMSELF IN THE BASEMENT OF HIS SMALL, THREE-STORY FRAME HOME AFTER HIS ASSAILANTS FIRED AT HIM WITH A SMALL-CALIBER WEAPON THROUGH A REAR DOOR OF HIS HOME, AT 232 GRANT STREET.

MR. MAIKOVSKIS, WOUNDED IN THE RIGHT LEG, CALLED THE NASSAU COUNTY POLICE EMERGENCY NUMBER, 911, ABOUT 8 A.M. HIS WIFE, JANINA, WAS AT WORK IN NEW YORK CITY AT THE TIME.

MR. MAIKOVSKIS WAS DESCRIBED IN FAIR CONDITION AT NEAR-BY NASSAU HOSPITAL AFTER UNDERGOING SURGERY.

THE SHORT, THIN , BESPECTACLED MAN WITH RECEDING GRAY HAIR, WHOM NEIGHBORS DESCRIBED AS A VERY QUIET PERSON WHO ATTENDED CHURCH REGULARLY,HAS BEEN CHARGED BY WITNESSES AT RECENT DEPORTATION HEARINGS WITH HAVING BEEN A POLICE "COMMANDANT" IN NAZI-OCCUPIED LATVIA WHO ROUNDED UP JEWS FOR EXECUTION AT THE DWINSK GHETTO IN 1941 AND 1942.

THE POLICE SAID THEY BELIEVED THE SHOOTING HAD BEEN DONE BY TWO MEN WHO MIGHT HAVE ESCAPED IN A WHITE VAN WITH A BLUE STRIPE.

PHIL BAUM, ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS, CONDEMNED THE ATTACK, SAYING:

"THIS VIOLENCE BECLOUDS THE ISSUE AND INSPIRES SYMPATHY FOR THOSE ACCUSED TO HEINOUS CRIMES. IT DIVERTS PUBLIC ANGER AND LENDS PLAUSIBILITY TO THE CLAIM OF VINDICTIVE PERSECUTION. THOSE WHO WANT TO REALLY SEE WAR CRIMINALS PUNISHED MUST JOIN IN CONDEMNING THIS CRUEL, POINTLESS AND STUPID
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ACT."

A POLICE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT "A J.D.L. INSIGNIA" HAD BEEN FOUND ON THE BACK PORCH, NEAR THE DOOR THROUGH WHICH THE SHOTS WERE FIRED, AND ADDED: "WE ARE INVESTIGATING THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT WAS LEFT BY HIS ASSAILANT."

MEMBERS OF THE JEWISH DEFENSE LEAGUE HAVE DEMONSTRATED IN FRONT OF THE HOME THREE TIMES IN THE LAST FEW YEARS, THE LAST TIME LAST MAY.

SPEAKING FROM NEW YORK OFFICE, BONNIE PECHTER, NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE LEAGUE, DENIED THAT HER ORGANIZATION WAS INVOLVED IN THE SHOOTING, SAYING:

"THE J.D.L. DOES NOT INVOLVE ITSELF IN MURDER OR SHOOTING. HOPEFULLY, THROUGH OUR ACTIVITIES, THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO UNDERSTOOD WHAT HAD TO BE DONE. THE TRAGEDY IS HE WAS JUST SHOT IN THE LEG. A MAN LIKE THAT DESERVES TO DIE."

MR. MAIKOVSKIS CAME TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1951. HIS WELL-KEPT HOME IS ALMOST OBSCURED BY TREES AND SHRUBBERY.

THE INITIAL HEARINGS BY THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE TO DEPORT HIM FOR ALLEGEDLY OBTAINING AN IMMIGRATION VISA THROUGH FRAUD AND DECEPTION WERE STARTED IN NOVEMBER 1976.

WITNESSES TESTIFIED AT HEARINGS THAT MR. MAIKOVSKIS HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN WAR CRIMES, BUT HE REFUSED TO TESTIFY, CLAIMING FIFTH AMENDMENT IMMUNITY.

HIS APPEAL FROM AN ORDER FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE IN NEW YORK THAT HE TESTIFY IS SCHEDULED TO BE HEARD NEXT MONTH BY THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT.
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NORMA SANTORO, A NEIGHBOR, DESCRIBED THE MAIKOVSKIS COUPLE AS "VERY QUIET" AND SAID SHE DID NOT KNOW HIS BACKGROUND UNTIL THE JEWISH DEFENSE LEAGUE DEMONSTRATIONS STARTED.

END TEXT.

CHRISTOPHER

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